

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1017

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9270

REF A, STATE 224997 B. USEC BRUSSELS 08423 C. BOGOTA 2744

1. UNION OF COLOMBIAN WORKERS (UTC) PRES TULIO CUEVAS OUTLINED THE UTC POSITION CONCERNING ORIT FOR THE EMB'S LAB OFF SEP 23. THE VIEWS ARE ESSENTIALLY THOSE OF AFL-CIO PRES MEANY AND MEXICAN CONFEDERATION OF LABSECY GEN VELAZQUEZ AS EXPLAINED IN PARAS 1 AND 3 REF A. CUEVAS SAID THAT THE UTC TOLD ICFTU REPS LAST MARCH REF C DURING THEIR TOUR OF LA, THAT THE FUTURE OF ORIT IS UP TO THE LAB ORGS OF THIS HEMISPHERE TO DECIDE PARA 8, REF B.

2. CUEVAS IS IN FAVOR OF KEEPING ORIT SECYGEN ECHEVERRY ON, NOT BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HE IS THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THE ORG NEEDS AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF STABILITY AND ECHEVERRY IN CUEVAS' OPINION HAS PROVEN TO BE A GOOD INTERIM ORIT REP.

3. CUEVAS SAID THAT IN THE MEETINGS WITH INTER AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS BEGINNING SEP 29 IN WASHINGTON AND LATER IN MEXICO, HE WILL PRESS FOR A ASTRENGTHENING OF ORIT THROUGH A REGIONAL-IZATION PROGRAM. THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PERSUADING AIFLD TO SIGN A SUB CONTRACT WITH ORIT TO PERMIT THAT ORG TO CONDUCT LABOR PROGRAMS THROUGH REGIONAL OFFICES IN CA, THE CARIBBEAN AND SA. CUEVAS HAS LONG THOUGHT THAT AIFLD SHOULD WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH ORIT.

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4. COLOMBIAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTC) PRES MERCADO IS KNOWN

TO HOLD ECHEVERRY IN LOW ESTEEM AND MAY JOIN, ALTHOUGH NOT
LEAD, ANY ATTEMPT TO OUST HIM. LABMIN SOURCES HAVE TOLD THE EMB
THAT MERCADO'S ANTAGONISM TOWARDS ECHEVERRY MAY BE IN PART IN-
FLUENCED BY HIS DESIRE TO REMAIN AN OFFICIAL IN THE ILO, FOR
WHICH HE NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE ICFTU. AS REPORTED REF B,
ICFTU SECYGEN KERSTEN DOES NOT LIKE ECHEVERRY. DREXLER

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